



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health**

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**MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**March 10, 2016**

**12:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

**1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 630, Madison, Wisconsin**

**Minutes**

**Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance:** Mike Bachhuber, Crystal Hester, Barbara Beckert, Joanne Juhnke, William Parke-Sutherland, Shel Gross, Dori Richards, Britt Cudaback, Justin Odulana, Mary Neubauer, Matt Strittmater, Kit Kerschensteiner

**Members of the LPC Attending Via Conference Call:** Paula Buege, Kathy Knoble-Iverson

**Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance:** Ryan Stachoviak, Laleña Lampe, Joyce Allen, Kay Cram

**Guests in Attendance:** Abby Stegner-Freitag, Marc Herstand

**Item 1: Call to Order**

*Review and approval of minutes of February 11, 2016*

**B. Beckert moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2016.**

**M. Neubauer seconded the motion.**

**Motion carries, minutes approved.**

*Announcements*

M. Bachhuber announced that Disability Advocacy Day will be held Tuesday, March 15. B. Beckert announced that the Mental Health Taskforce will be holding a candidate forum. W. Parke-Sutherland announced that Empowerment Days will be held May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Concourse Hotel in Madison. Registration is through UW-Stevens Point. S. Gross announced the Communities in Action to Prevent Suicide Conference will be held April 29<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point. C. Hester announced the NAMI-Conference will be held April 29-30 in Elkhart Lake, WI. M. Neubauer discussed WISE and the Open Honest, Proud training. There will be training for people who provide student services. The training is provided at no cost.

**Item 2: Committee Membership**

P. Buege announced that she is resigning as LPC co-chair, but she will stay on as a member of the LPC. S. Gross stated that the LPC needs at least one co-chair to be a member of the WCMH. S. Gross stated that he is committed to stay as a chair or co-chair role for the near future, but he is looking for someone to step-up, who

can take on an official role and be a member of the WCMH. The Executive Committee will continue discussions to better define membership roles and WCMH appointment terms.

There are two current options for LPC chair positions. There are a few members of the LPC who are currently Council members; however no one is currently feeling ready to take on the co-chair position. A member of the LPC could apply for the Council, or alternatively there may be a member of the WCMH who would be willing to join the LPC. S. Gross asked that if there is anyone on the LPC who may be interested in considering taking on the co-chair role to contact S. Gross to discuss the matter further. S. Gross stated that he will be unable to attend the May, June, and August meetings. The LPC will need someone to chair those meetings.

S. Gross noted that the LPC does have membership vacancies. The committee has also developed membership guidelines. In the past the LPC has conducted general advertising to attract new members. S. Gross noted that there may be past recruitment materials that could be used for current recruitment. S. Gross asked whether the LPC should conduct targeted recruitment or wait until there are applicants. Members of the LPC stated that ensuring diversity on the LPC should be an effort. Tribal representation should also be a focus. The LPC should also be mindful of ensuring representation of consumers, family members, and parents. The LPC determined that outreach efforts should involve reaching out to underrepresented groups and organizations which may serve those groups.

### **Item 3: Legislative Tracking**

#### *State bills: New tracking item review; discussion of bills being tracked*

C. Hester discussed bill tracking. A number of items were removed from the bill tracking document due to inaction. AB568/SB445, relating to terminating tenancy was signed into law. AB664, relating to clinic branch offices in schools, has been passed. However at this time the bill has not been signed into law by the Governor.

W. Parke-Sutherland noted that AB708 and AB710 will not receive a hearing in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Advocates have been told that no additional bills will be heard in the committee. A number of letters of support for the bills have been sent to Senator Vukmir. AB51 is expected to pass committee. AB657, related to funding for Treatment and Diversion programs is still being considered. AB408, relating to behavioral health care coordination pilot projects, psychiatric consultation reimbursement project, and access to information on availability of inpatient psychiatric beds, has been signed into law. S. Gross suggested that the LPC advocate for companion bills in the future. AB708 and AB710 both have legislative language written; as such these areas can be addressed in the future.

#### *Federal Legislation/Policy*

M. Bachhuber discussed HR2646. The bill may have a markup in the coming month. Senator Alexander in the Senate Committee on Health has been working on a bi-partisan mental health bill. The bill was released this week. A markup is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>. The system change this bill contains is more in-line with what many advocates were supporting. Some organizations are looking for more children's mental health supports. This bill does create an Assistant Secretary position, a Chief Medical Officer position, and also does require changes requirements for advisory councils. Evidence based programs are emphasized, and the bill contains some change to the Mental Health Block Grant program. Many other key initiatives are reauthorized. Negotiations are still occurring. There are many other standalone bills which have been introduced, and other mental health bills which may be folded in to other bills if consensus can be reached.

#### **Item 4: 2017-2019 Budget Priorities**

S. Gross detailed the LPC budget priorities which the committee had developed at the previous LPC meeting. P. Buege suggested that the LPC add a priority area related to juvenile justice and facilities. J. Juhnke stated that the Children and Youth Committee has begun developing a list of budget and policy priorities as well. B. Beckert discussed peer supports, noting that there is extremely low pay for people working as peer specialists. In addition peer specialists often encounter difficult ethical situations. W. Parke-Sutherland suggested that the LPC look at policy related to how to better support peer specialists. J. Odulana suggested adding in minority groups and elderly under the focus of suicide prevention. Members of the LPC discussed the impact of discrimination as it relates to safe and affordable housing. Peer respite zoning and WCMH stipends were suggested for addition to the priorities. M. Neubauer and B. Beckert discussed priority areas from the Milwaukee Mental Health Board. M. Strittmater noted the counties are also working on priorities.

#### **Item 5: Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Updates**

##### *Certified Peer Specialist Expansion Projects*

L. Lampe discussed the Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) Expansion. Regarding the Integrated Peer Specialist program, recently efforts were made to develop competency exams for the Integrated Peer Specialist program. The exam has gone through the validation process. A few revisions have been made based on feedback from the validation process. A Wisconsin specific curriculum is being developed to reflect the CPS program and include the integrated process. The curriculum is being developed by ATI and UW-Milwaukee. A six member review team is involved in reviewing the sections which are being developed by the curriculum developers. The final curriculum review is expected in June of 2016. After that time it will be brought to DMHSAS for approval, and later developed into manuals. Exams for the new competencies will begin in September of 2016. Efforts are being made to better bring the review team and the curriculum developers together. The program is considered a pilot for the first two years. The final product will be reviewed multiple times over those two years. The team is also working to gather data related to youth cultural competence in the CPS training and exams. A yearly survey is done with the CPS' which looks at employment, compensation, and satisfaction.

Regarding Parent Peer Specialist training, the exam has been written and validated. The curriculum is currently being developed as well. Some regionally based information sessions will be held to provide information, answer questions, and receive feedback on the project.

#### **Item 6: Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

#### **Item 7: Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:02pm.